

Application No. 09/462,506
Amendment Dated August 8, 2003
Reply to Final Office Action of March 31, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A method for treating papermachine or filtration fabric having one of synthetic yarns and fibers in a continuous process, the method including the step of continuously subjecting at least one surface of one of a layer and a component of feeding the fabric to solvent free plasma treatment in through a plasma chamber having a water free helium containing atmosphere and subjecting at least one surface of the fabric to solvent free plasma treatment, the water free helium containing atmosphere having a pressure above ambient self-sealing fabric entry and exit openings.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said plasma treatment includes one of glow discharge, dielectric barrier discharge and spray discharge plasma to provide activated sites for subsequent coating or dyeing.

Claim 14. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains oxygen, air or ammonia.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains one of a silane, a siloxane, and a perfluorocarbon.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains a silane of $\text{Si}(\text{CH}_3)_4$.

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Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains a siloxane of $\text{Si}(\text{OCH}_3)_4$.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains a perfluorocarbon of 1-6C perfluoroalkane, tetrafluoroethylene, or a combination thereof.

Claim 19. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains a hydrocarbon.

Claim 20. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the plasma contains one or more halogenated hydrocarbons or unsaturated amines.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein the plasma is diluted by includes helium.

Claim 22-25 (Cancelled)

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the fabric includes one of sintered felts, ~~coatings of~~ coated papermaking fabrics, non-wovens and films, spiral link structures, membrane and polymer matrix material.